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Attorney for Plaintiffs

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA
HELENA DIVISION**

Dale Fossen, et al.,)	
)	Cause No.: CV 09-61-H-CCL
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
-v-)	AFFIDAVIT OF
)	DALE FOSSEN
Blue Cross Blue Shield of)	
Montana, Inc.,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

1. My name is Dale Fossen, and I live at Fossen Brothers Farms, 305 3rd St. W., P.O. Box 102, Joplin, MT 59531.

2. During all times relevant hereto, Fossen Brothers Farms was a partnership, consisting of farm corporations incorporated in Montana and respectively entitled D and M Fossen, Inc., L and C Fossen, Inc., and M and C Fossen, Inc. Brothers Dale Fossen, Larry Fossen, and Marlowe Fossen are the presidents of each these respective corporations (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Fossen Brothers").

3. Fossen Brothers Farms, the Fossen brothers, and their corporations reside in and farm in both Hill and Liberty Counties in the state of Montana.

4. In December 2003 and January 2004, Roger Olson of the Olson Insurance Agency of Chester, Montana, on behalf of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana offered to enroll the Fossen Brothers in what he characterized as a “true pool risk plan” offered by Associated Merchandisers, Inc. (AMI). He informed us that we would be rated once and only once for the plan and would not be rerated during our participation. He informed us that any increase in premiums would be a pool wide rate increase that everyone would share equally.


5. Mr. Olson gave me an application form with a Blue Cross Blue Shield logo and the heading “ASSOCIATED MERCHANDISERS, INC. (AMI) GROUP HEALTH BENEFITS PLAN EMPLOYER ELECTION FORM.” I filled out this form, a copy of which is attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 1. From the heading on the application, as well as from Mr. Olson’s explanation, I believed that the “group” or risk-sharing pool into which we were buying consisted of all the small businesses subscribing to AMI. I believed that all these small businesses would be rated together, so that premium increases would be the same for all.

6. In or about April 2006, Blue Cross increased the Fossen Brothers’ AMI premium by over 21%. The insurance agent, Roger Olson, told us that some members of the AMI group were incurring premium increases of 7%, 9%, and 24%, and some members were receiving decreases of up to 9%. I complained to

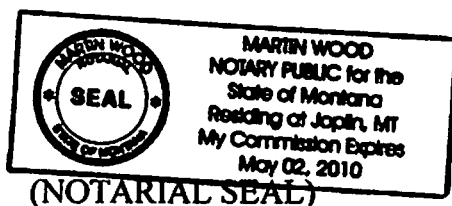
the Insurance Department of the Montana State Auditor's Office regarding this increase.


7. In 2009, Blue Cross Blue Shield changed the AMI Plan to the Montana Chamber Choices Plan. On behalf of Fossen Brothers, I filled out an application form entitled "MONTANA CHAMBER CHOICES ASSOCIATION 2009 GROUP HEALTH BENEFITS PLAN EMPLOYER ELECTION FORM." A copy of this application is attached to this affidavit as Exhibit 2.

Dated this 16 day of March 2010.


Dale Fossen

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 16 day of March 2010.




Notary Public for the State of Montana
Martin Wood
(Typed or printed name of Notary)
Residing in Joplin
My Commission Expires: May 2, 2010

BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD
of Montana

An Independent Member of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

ASSOCIATED MERCHANTISERS, INC. (AMI)
GROUP HEALTH BENEFITS PLAN EMPLOYER ELECTION FORM

X 59184-207

<u>Fossen Brothers Farms</u>		<u>Dale Fossen</u>
Company Name		Group Contact Name
<u>305 NW 1st W.</u>	<u>P.O. Box 102</u>	<u>(406) 292-3250</u>
Service Address	Mailing Address	Telephone Number
<u>Joplin</u>	<u>MT.</u>	<u>59531</u>
City	State	ZIP

1. Employer Tax Identification Number. If you have no TIN, Social Security Number	<u>81-093465</u>
2. For the current calendar year (January -Present), state the total number of employees* Have you had 20 or more employees during 20 or more work weeks? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Do you expect to have 20 or more employees during at least 50% of your typical business days? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<u>3</u>
3. For the previous calendar year (January 1-December 31), state the total number of employees Did you have 20 or more employees during 20 or more work weeks? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Did you have 20 or more employees during at least 50% of your typical business days? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<u>3</u>
4. Number of employees eligible for this benefit plan <u>3</u> Employees	

Answer the following questions for both Health and Life Benefit Plans

	Health		Life (optional)
5. Group waiting period (probationary period)	<u>90</u> Days		<u>90</u> Days
6. Number of work hours per week required to be eligible for benefits	<u>32</u> Hours		<u>32</u> Hours
7. Employer contribution (\$ or %) to premium	<u>100%</u> Employee		<u>100%</u> Employee
	<u>100%</u> Dependent		<u>100%</u> Dependent

***** BENEFIT OPTIONS *****

Medical Plan Options (Mandatory)	RATE LEVEL <u>Table 6</u>	Life Benefit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traditional Health First 50/50 \$500 Deductible		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> Traditional Health First 70/30 \$500 Deductible		<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> PPO Health First 50/50 \$500 Deductible		
<input type="checkbox"/> PPO Health First 70/30 \$500 Deductible		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Saver 100/0 \$5,000 Deductible \$500 Primary Care Benefit		

Requested Effective Date 6-1-2004 I certify that all information provided by me to complete this application is true.

<u>Dale Fossen</u>	<u>partner</u>
Printed Name of Owner or Officer of the Group	Title
<u>Dale Fossen</u>	<u>April 2, 2004</u>
Signature of Owner or Officer of the Group	Date

Please Submit to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana, P.O. Box 4309, Helena, MT 59604

RECEIVED
HELENA DISTRICT OFFICEBLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD
OF MONTANA

RECEIVED APR 15 2004 APR 07 2004

APR 07 2004

APR 7 2004 ENROLLMENT TEAM BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD
OF MONTANA

MSS

EXHIBIT

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MONTANA CHAMBER CHOICES ASSOCIATION
 2009 GROUP HEALTH BENEFITS PLAN EMPLOYER ELECTION FORM

MCC SUBGROUP NO. 80M

Fossen Brothers Farms
 Group Name

Dale Fossen
 Group Contact Name

305 Third St. W.
 Physical Address

P.O. Box 102
 Mailing Address

Telephone 406 292-3230

Joplin, Mt. 59531
 City State Zip Code

Joplin, Mt. 59531
 City State Zip Code

FAX 406 292-3296

E-Mail Address

- Employer Tax Identification Number. If you have no TIN, Social Security Number: 81-0595465
- Coverage for Sole Proprietor/Owner-Operator? ☐ Yes ☒ No (If Yes, do not complete questions 3-6)
- For the current calendar year (January 1–Present), state the total number of employees: 3
 Have you had 20 or more employees during 20 or more work weeks? ☐ Yes ☒ No
 Do you expect to have 20 or more employees during at least 50% of your typical business days? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- For the previous calendar year (January 1–December 31), state the total number of employees: 3
 Did you have 20 or more employees during 20 or more work weeks? ☐ Yes ☒ No
 Did you have 20 or more employees during at least 50% of your typical business days? ☐ Yes ☒ No

5. Current number of employees 3 Number of eligible employees 3 Number of enrolled employees 3
 If your group is COBRA eligible, COBRA will be administered by BCBSMT.

6. If COBRA eligible, number of COBRA participants enrolling N/A

7. Group waiting period (probationary period): (Must not exceed 180 days):
90 Days

8. Number of work hours per week required to be eligible for benefits: 32 Hours

9. Employer contribution to premium (% or \$): (Must be at least 30% for employee.)
100 % or \$ _____ Employee
100 % or \$ _____ Dependent

Please review definitions on reverse.

BENEFIT OPTIONS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health First HealthLink <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Deductible 60/40 <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Deductible 70/30 <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Deductible 30/30 <input type="checkbox"/> \$1500 Deductible 80/20 <input type="checkbox"/> Big Sky Select <input type="checkbox"/> 50/30; \$25 Office Visit <input type="checkbox"/> 60/40; \$15 Office Visit <input type="checkbox"/> CMM 70/30 HealthLink <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Deductible <input type="checkbox"/> CMM 30/30 HealthLink <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Deductible <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Deductible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CMM-HSA \$2500 HealthLink <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$2500 Deductible; 100/0 <input type="checkbox"/> \$5000 Deductible; 100/0	Dental Plan <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Deductible (includes Orthodontia) <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Deductible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO Helena District Office MAY 06 2009	Vision Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Effective Date: <u>Renewal</u> <u>6/1/2009</u>
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\$5000 Life and \$5000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment Benefit (Included with all Medical Options)

I certify that all information provided by me to complete this application is true.

RECEIVED

Rate Level: 9

Dale Fossen
 Printed Name of Group Leader

General Partner
 Title

Renee M. Fossen
 Representative Name

[Signature]
 Signature

4-29-09
 Date

RECEIVED
 Representative

EXHIBIT
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